



**CITY OF DANBURY**  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**19 NEW STREET**  
**DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810**

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**Fire Chief**

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**FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT**

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of 21 September through 21 October and details activities of the Department. Fire prevention Month is always busy and this month has proven no exception. We have presented many sessions on fire safety and the department has been very active.

On a special note of interest, Lt Jamie Schiller and Firefighters John Whitehead, Joe Stabile and Jordan Sherman all participated in the Police and Fire World Games in Brooklyn, NY this past summer. They combined with other Fire and Police Departments to form a hockey team and represented us very admirably. They were undefeated and ultimately came in second place. 17000 police and fire personal from 85 countries participated. The players formed 144 hockey teams. The tournament ran from 29 Aug to 2 September.

This month we honored Lt. Mark Miguel as Firefighter of the Year for the Exchange Club. He was feted at two events, a night at Anthony Lake Club and a statewide dinner at the Aqua Turf in Southington. I extend my thank you to the Danbury Exchange Club for sponsoring this event and honoring our members.

There are three upcoming recognition dinners for recently retired members. These dinners will be held at Anthonys' Lake Club on Christopher Columbus Boulevard.  
The dinner dates are as follows:

Lt. Ken Stilson, 31 years of service, 2 November, 2011  
Assistant Chief Bob Keenan, 38 Years of service, 29 November 2011  
Firefighter Peter Radlet, 26 years of service, 5 December 2011

To purchase tickets for these dinners (\$55), please contact firefighter Sean Delohery at 203-770-9032 or Lt. Mike Tyskiewicz at 203-994-8423

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Preplans and tours for the period include Crown Point, Westville Ave Water treatment facility, Christmas Tree Shop, Danbury Hospital garage, 215 Main St., Colonials Way

Fire safety education included Little Peoples Day School, St. Josephs School, Danbury Public Schools Morris Street, Pembroke, Shelter rock, Great Plain, South Street, Park Avenue,

### **SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE**

Units responded to a structure fire at 44 Wedgewood Drive. The fire began in the kitchen in the vicinity of a microwave oven. The fire breached the kitchen ceiling and penetrated the second floor in a closet where responding units held it and extinguished it. All units operated safely and the structure was saved, there is extensive damage in the home. No civilian or fire department injuries or fatalities. Had this fire occurred in a sprinkler protected home the fire damage would have been far less and the smoke damage greatly reduced.

On 21 September and incident occurred at 14 Harmony St. This was a kitchen fire that started while a 10 year old girl was cooking a hot dog in a pan of oil. When the oil ignited she tried to put the fire out using the sink sprayer. The fire spread to the range hood and cabinets above the stove. During the investigation, housekeeping and egress issues were addressed. No injuries were reported. This could have had a much different outcome. Cooking fires are a common type of fire and education to address these situations must improve. We are addressing this through our Community Risk Reduction Offices.

An incident at Stew Leonards, 99 Federal Rd. occurred on 9 October. This was a fire in the chimney piping of the commercial coffee roaster. Management had discovered the fire and opened end caps of the piping, extinguishing what fire they could with a dry chemical extinguisher. Although the fire did not extend beyond the piping, a significant smoke condition existed in the store. The extinguishing agent contributed to the condition and the health dept. was notified as extensive inventory contamination was evident. DFM Osborne investigated. No injuries were reported.

A second plane crash in as many weeks occurred on 16 October at 56 Wooster Heights Rd. This resulted in a single fatality, that of the pilot. Coincidental with a fully involved pickup truck fire on I-84, a Cirrus SR22 single engine aircraft crashed into a residential yard after hitting the pole mounted beacon off Harvard Rd. in the Terra Haute area of Wooster Heights. Apparently the pilot was killed on impact. Numerous parts of his plane were torn off on descent through the heavily treed area.

Airport administrators Estefan and Safranek responded to the scene after E26, the Truck Company and E23 arrived. C30 responded after clearing from I-84. DPD investigated also. Chief Herald, FM Johnson and T/O Omasta responded, as well as Devin, a Cirrus expert from Curtis Arrow at Danbury Airport. Devin assisted in confirming that the planes ballistic charge, which pulls a parachute from the aft section of this type of aircraft, was spent and not a hazard. He also assisted in advising on the extrication of the pilot's body from the wreckage. A leaking supplemental oxygen cylinder was identified and placed in a safe location. Crews assisted in identifying hazards and preserving evidence for the NTSB's investigation. The FAA was also consulted, as well as the Medical Examiner's Office. A field representative from that office arrived as the extrication was photo-documented by DPD. DPD held the scene for the night. Capt. Meehan assisted in a press conference and media relations. No injuries were reported.

### **Command and Staff Activities**

- ARFF live burn Westover
- Conn. Education Committee meeting Wethersfield
- Meet and Greet Rich Jalbert Board of Ed.
- State Chiefs Labor Management committee
- Kimberly Place meeting with Staff and Tenants over building access
- FFOY Dinner Mark Miguel
- Mayor's press announcement of Safer Grant
- FFOY State wide dinner Aqua Turf in Southington
- Monthly Staff Meeting
- Fire Service Day Open house
- Annual Awards Ceremony
- Conn. Fire Service Instructors Awards Dinner
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony New Haven Fire School

### **Donations**

During the month we have received support for our public education efforts from two involved corporate citizens. These are Powers Construction and Toll Brothers. These firms have assisted with supplying various hand outs and coloring books for Danbury Children. Getting this fire safety educational material into the hands of our children lays the foundation for future fire safety in our community and we thank these community members.

### **Emergency Medical/ Haz-Mat - Rey Rodriguez**

The topic for EMS Wednesday this month was Legal Issues and the review of the documentation of Patient Care policy for the Danbury Fire Department.

It is imperative that Emergency Responders be aware of the laws and regulations that establish the parameters of the care they provide once the 911 system is activated. The First Responders duty is to provide for the well being of the patient by rendering necessary and legally allowed care as defined under the Medical Control of our sponsor hospital, Danbury Hospital and State of Connecticut statutes.

Chief Herald and EMS/HazMat Coordinator Rodriguez attended a meeting at the Danbury Hospital with the New Regional Emergency Medical Services Team, Dr Begg, Dr. Koobian and Dr. Broderick.

At the meeting, Dr. Broderick informed the group of the changes that had occurred at the Danbury Hospital within the Emergency Department. The focus is towards a more regional approach, sharing resources and costs while maintaining the same high standards that have been the hallmark of the Danbury Hospital and the EMS providers in our area.

### **Communications/911 - Patrick Sniffin**

During this period two high profile events occurred in the form of separate plane crashes. On October 1<sup>st</sup> an aircraft departing Danbury crashed in the Ridgebury section of Danbury-Ridgefield and on October 16<sup>th</sup> a plane inbound to Danbury Airport crashed in the vicinity of Wooster Heights during the evening.

In the October 1<sup>st</sup> incident simultaneous reports to Danbury and Ridgefield 911 resulted in a dual response by Ridgefield and Danbury. Throughout the incident there was good communications and resource sharing with Ridgefield ultimately assuming command when the site was determined to be in Ridgefield.

On the evening of October 16<sup>th</sup>, fire crews were already responding to I84 for an active truck fire when the crash occurred. Dispatchers still receiving numerous calls for the I84 fire rapidly escalated the plane crash to a major response. Given the high profile nature of these dual incidents within close proximity there were some issues with radio communications.

Since the weekend of October 3<sup>rd</sup> there has been a nagging issue with the public address system within headquarters. On the night of October 2<sup>nd</sup> the amplifier stopped working. During the subsequent replacement of this unit a series of sporadic noise has been heard constantly over the telephone paging side. The department is working with ATT, Mid State Telephone and reps of the Public Buildings Department to trace and resolve this problem. While this is an inconvenience working in a large building it has not seriously affected emergency responses.

### **Training - Mark Omasta**

Volunteer Division

Volunteer Fire Fighter Brandon Gully with Water Witch Squad 7 passed all of the State of CT exams and is now certified at the Fire Fighter 1 level.

Third quarter training finished up on Oct. 2. All Volunteer companies drilled on various evolutions including water supply, relay pumping, drafting and hose work. 105 volunteers participated in third quarter training.

Volunteer Firefighters Eric Svege, Dan Cohn, and Lucio LaDuca are enrolled in the 96 hour Fire Officer I certification class hosted in Danbury at Fire Headquarters this October and November.

#### Career Division

##### Driver/Operators

Fire Fighter Tim O'Hanlon completed the Pump Operator certification class and is scheduled to take the written exam soon.

#### Fire School- improvements

With the help of the City Tree and public works departments, a utility pole was installed behind the burn building. This will allow us to extend lighting to the rear and side of the burn building. The area around the burn building was graded and is now much more user friendly and safer for all personnel and apparatus.

We are working with a welder, who will fabricate a steel door to replace the original metal door and frame at the entry to the basement burn room.

#### Fire Officer Training

Danbury is hosting the Ct Fire Academy's "Fire Officer I class" through the end of November. We have 9 career and 3 volunteer FF's in the class along with 6 volunteer fire fighters from area departments. Capt. Ron Bowers is attending the 80 hour Fire Officer II class in Harwinton through November.

#### Airport Fire Fighters

Our 14 ARFF (Airport Rescue Fire Fighters) participated in live burn training at Westover AFB on Sept. 27. This training is required by the FAA and is one of many topics that must be covered on an annual basis.

#### Hose Testing- Hydrant testing

Annual hose testing is in progress for all crews and volunteer departments. The hydrant testing season comes to a close the end of October.

#### "Modern Marvels"

The history channel sent a film crew to Danbury on Oct. 4 to shoot footage for a planned segment on water pressure and how Fire Fighters use water pressure during fire suppression activities. Filming was done at Fire Headquarters and at our Fire School facility on Plumtrees Rd. The modern marvels show "What's in your pockets" that was filmed in Danbury last December is scheduled to air on December 5.

#### Safety Officer Assignments

The T.O was called in as Safety officer for a structure fire on Wedgewood Dr. and for a plane crash on Wooster Heights

## Meetings/ events for the T.O.

- ☐ Sept.27 Fire Dept. Fall golf outing in Newtown
- ☐ Sept. 28 Flag ceremony for retiring Asst. Chief Bob Keenan
- ☐ Sept. 29 Leadership Danbury seminar and graduation at WCSU
- ☐ Sept. 30 Attended the Electric Vehicle Train the Trainer class at the Academy
- ☐ Sept. 30 Testimonial dinner for soon to marry FF Ken Stilson III
- ☐ Oct 5 CT Fire Instructors annual dinner at the Aqua Turf
- ☐ Oct 6 Exchange Club Fire Fighter of the year dinner for Lt. Mark Miguel
- ☐ Oct 11 CME Danbury hospital
- ☐ Oct 13 Ribbon cutting for the renovated New Haven Regional Fire School
- ☐ Oct 16 Annual memorial and awards ceremony at HQ
- ☐ Oct 14,19 Mentor at Rogers Park Middle school
- ☐ Oct 18 Staff meeting with "A" group

## **Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo**

The new batteries were installed in E-21 and E-24's 4 gas meters. Trk-2's meter received a new O2 and LEL sensor. All meters are calibrated and in service. The electronics of 09FX "Special Response" has been slightly more dependable this past month; representatives from Whelen Engineering have been struggling with the light and siren issues. Just today a wiring change was made and another new light/siren controller was installed. (Keep your fingers crossed) Fit testing for the Volunteer contingent is proceeding as planned. E-8, E-9, E-11 and E-12 were fit tested this month. Our retired engines (2) were sold on an online auction, one is already in Somerville Georgia, and the other will be heading to Northern Ontario Canada in November. Purchasing did a fabulous job with the disposition of these old units. The Statement of Condition was prepared by this division; Truck-1 is O.O.S due to an engine oil leak, while trying to raise the cab on this unit the cab lift cylinder broke. The new cylinder has arrived and will be installed.

### Other repairs completed:

- Serviced Bauer Air Compressor.
- Replaced the battery in the S.R.V.
- Replaced the rear leaf springs on E-23.
- Replaced tires on E-23, E-25, and Trk-1.
- Replaced the Officers seatbelt in E-21.
- Serviced E-23.
- Installed new Thermal Imaging Camera in E-21.
- Repaired the Plymovent unit in E-22's bay.

## **Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal - James Johnson**

We completed 4 inspection(s) for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic); all situations have been resolved or are about to be concluded. Our office investigated several fires; there were two serious fires, happily with no injuries. Occupants were taken care of by family and their insurance company.

This month's Fire Prevention consisted of several programs for elderly at Wooster Manor and Putnam Towers. We also did programs for Sears and the Open House at fire headquarters. Members of the Community Risk Reduction team completed 35 hours of continuing education for annual Fire Marshal Certification. DFM Leach attended the Pine Tree Burn Foundation Conference in Maine. DFM Weber and FM Johnson attended a Mass Notification Conference given by the Honeywell / Gamewell Corporation.

October is Fire Prevention Month. We have completed most of the schools that signed up for our visits. This year we are utilizing line personnel as part of our program with overwhelming success. Seeing the firefighters with gear and equipment seems to be the most popular part of the program.

## Department Statistical Reports

### Community Risk Reduction

Inspections	Amount
Apartments	457
Business	18
Day Care	1
Education	5
Fuel Trucks	22
Hazmat (Tank Install)	0
Health Care	1
Hotel (Rooms)	140
Industrial	0
Liquor	6
Merchantile	31
Misc.	26
Place of Assembly	7
Res. Board & Care	2
Rooming House	1
Service Stations	0
Special Structure	3
Storage	2
TOTAL	722

Topics	Amount
Abatement/Reports (Hrs.)	54
Blasting Permits	1
Burn Permits	0
Complaints	21
Cont. Ed. Hours	45
Fatal Fires	0
Fire Investigation	6
Fire Safety Prgms.	14
Meetings (Hrs)	22

Office Duty (Hrs.)	158	
Orders of Abatement		1
Plan Review (hrs.)	60	
Tickets Issued		2
<b>TOTAL HRS.</b>	<b>339</b>	

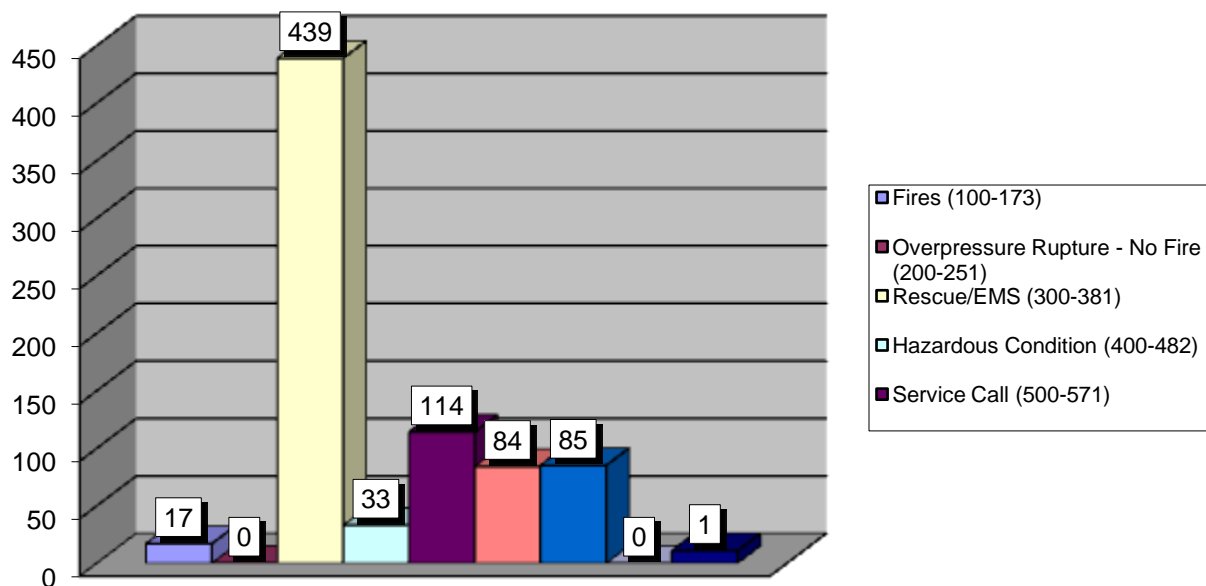
<b>Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding</b>	
Fires (100-173)	17
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	0
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	439
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	33
Service Call (500-571)	114
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	84
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	85
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	0
Special Incident Type (900-911)	2
No Report/Incomplete	11
Total Fire Responses	785
<b>E911 Statistics</b>	
Total 911 Calls	2875
Abandoned 911 Calls	389
Cellular 911 Calls	1527
911 Hang Up Calls	927
Admin Calls Received	936
Police Calls via 911	330
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	226
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	294
Daily Average	102.68
<b>Dispatch Incident Statistics</b>	
Total Fire Responses	785
Total EMS Responses	793
Unknown Transport Status	1
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	355
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	299
No Patient (CAD 62)	121
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	6
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	11

**\*\* NOTE \*\***

Multiple 911 Calls received for Fire And  
EMS  
Incidents are attached to Fire Incident  
Reports



### Fire Response Breakdown September 21 to October 21, 2011



### 911 Center Activity September 21 to October 21, 2011

